As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau selected another political appointee for one of Canada’s ambassadors, former senior diplomat Andrew Caddell is widely viewed as an underdog—having picked up the fewest notable endorsements out of the two social conservatives in the race to become the next Conservative Party leader, rookie Ontario MP Derek Sloan.

A spokesperson for Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland says decisions on reopening the Canada-U.S. border will be ‘made by Canadians, for Canadians.’ The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers has called for Canada and the United States to ‘immediately craft a comprehensive framework for phased reopening of the border.’

In the wake of an armed man crashing his truck through Rideau Hall gates and threatening Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, some are recalling the stark warning of political violence more than a year before from then-Privy Council Clerk Michael Wernick. And while the timing of the former top public servant raising his concerns in the midst of a scandal still seems oddly chosen to some political watchers and security experts, they say the sentiment was true then and rings truer now.

New data: Indigenous, Black inmates still more likely to be put in higher security prisons, face longer sentences

Trudeau’s penchant for political appointees shows lack of appreciation for ambassadors’ work: former senior diplomat

Time to listen to health-care reform calls?

More nuanced, test-focused approach needed to reopen Canada-U.S. border, say experts

Learning to do politics without the summer BBQ backstop

Wernick’s warning of political violence reflects increasing polarization, say politicos, experts

Continued on page 15

Continued on page 13

Continued on page 14

Continued on page 16

Continued on page 4
Les Linklater tapped to oversee federal COVID-19 testing and contract tracing

Les Linklater was previously an associate deputy minister at Public Services and Procurement Canada, who was charged with repairing the Phoenix pay system. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Les Linklater, the federal bureaucrat that was tasked with fixing the Phoenix pay system, has now been charged with leading the federal effort on COVID-19 testing and contract tracing at Health Canada. The Canadian government is now working with provinces on a contract tracing app to anonymously catalogue individuals who have been in contact with those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Mr. Linklater took on the new role—officially, federal lead for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and data management strategies—on July 8. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Canada, more than 3.2 million Canadians have been tested for the virus with 107,590 testing positively. As of July 13, 8,783 people have died.

Mr. Linklater was a Public Services and Procurement Canada associate deputy minister, where his work involved fixing the federal government’s problem-plagued pay system. Mr. Linklater told members of the House Government Operations Committee on June 16 that the government has a “long-term plan to stabilize the payroll system, including the salaries of public servants who have been hired to support our efforts.”

Deputy House Speaker Bruce Stanton will not run for re-election

Deputy House Speaker Bruce Stanton has already announced that the 43rd Parliament will be his last.

Local media reported last month that the MP for Simcoe North, Ont., won’t seek re-election. He has represented the central Ontario riding under the Conservative banner since 2006.

He cited the traditionally short lifespan of minority Parliaments for his early announcement.

Leona Alleslev steps down as Tory deputy leader

Leona Alleslev became the Conservative Party’s deputy leader in December 2019. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

The Conservative Party lost its second-in-command after Leona Alleslev stepped down in order to endorse Peter MacKay for the next Tory leader.

“The selection of the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada is too important a decision for me to stand on the side,” Ms. Alleslev tweeted on July 12. The next day she endorsed the last leader of the federal Progressive Conservatives.

In 2018, then-Liberal MP Ms. Alleslev crossed the floor to join the Conservative caucus. Fourteen months later, she was appointed the party’s deputy leader following the 2019, which saw it fail to unseat the governing Liberals.

A former logistics officer in the Canadian Air Force, Ms. Alleslev has represented Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill, Ont., in the House of Commons since 2015. As her party’s foreign affairs critic, she sits on the House Foreign Affairs and Canada-China Relations committees.

She also served as parliamentary secretary to then Public Services and Procurement minister Judy Foote while a Liberal MP.

In endorsing Mr. MacKay, she said “Canada needs a leader who has the experience and a plan to tackle the priorities of our time.”

Mr. MacKay is up against Conservative MPs Erin O’Toole and Derek Sloan and 2015 Tory candidate Leslyn Lewis in the leadership election, voting for which wraps up Aug. 21.

Peter MacKay has Zellers nostalgia

Peter MacKay tweeted that going to Zellers was like going to New York City.

Just because he’s in the middle of a leadership campaign doesn’t mean Peter MacKay can’t have a little fun. After fellow leadership candidate Erin O’Toole liked a tweet championing the decline of eight Canadian companies like Sears, Zellers, and Eaton’s, a Zellers Twitter parody account called for all Tory leadership candidate “to share their favourite Zellers store moment.”

“If there is one thing that should unite all candidates, it is a love for the iconic Canadian brand that is Zellers,” the mock release suggested.

“My,” Mr. MacKay seemingly agreed.

“The first time I remember Christmas shopping was with my grandmother at TheZellersStore in New Glasgow. I have many memories of shopping there with her and my mother. Going to Zellers from a rural community outside New Glasgow was like going to New York City!” he tweeted.

Some believed Mr. MacKay was responding sincerely. Although Mr. MacKay was quick to assert he knew it was a gag.

“Do people not have a sense of humour on Twitter anymore? Have some fun and enjoy your weekend!”

Svend Robinson to become J.S. Woodsworth resident scholar at Simon Fraser University

Svend Robinson was an NDP MP from 1979 to 2004. The Hill Times photograph by Samantha Wight Allen

Svend Robinson was an NDP MP from 1979 to 2004, according to a biography on the Commons website. He was the first openly gay MP and the first to serve as a member of the House of Commons as a resident scholar.

As the MP for the Burnaby-area from 1979 to 2004, he represented an area that included SFU’s Burnaby campus.

In 2011 to 2015, he served as the assistant deputy chair of the committee of the whole. Mr. Robinson will join its faculty as a J.S. Woodsworth resident scholar in the fall.

As part of the role, Mr. Robinson will teach a humanities seminar and take part in local initiatives through the university’s Institute for the Humanities.

While serving in the Privy Council as an adviser to Mr. Trudeau’s cabinet, Mr. Arykroyd led the public relations effort for Canada’s centennial commemoration in 1967. He was later the Transportation Development Agency deputy chair and assistant deputy minister at Transport Canada.

Steve Aykroyd was the chief engineer of the Gatineau Park Commission. He was the first openly gay MP and the first to serve as a member of the House of Commons as a resident scholar.

As the MP for the Burnaby-area from 1979 to 2004, he represented an area that included SFU’s Burnaby campus.

The post that he will be occupying is named after J.S. Woodsworth, who was the first leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and an MP from 1921 to 1942.
Thordon Bearings Inc., Dominis Engineering Ltd. and Patriot Forge Co., three world-class, family-owned and operated high-performance manufacturing businesses in Ontario, have joined forces as a consortium to provide fully integrated and complete vessel shaftline systems for Canada’s most important vessels included in Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy. These global industry leaders will provide the highest quality shaftline system to significantly improve operational performance, lower costs for Canada’s Navy and Coast Guard and create sustainable jobs in the critically important Canadian manufacturing sector.

For the past 30 years some of the most critical and core major ship equipment have been supplied from overseas. Now more than ever the times call for world quality, Canadian manufactured components for Canada’s ships; supporting high skilled, high tech, high paying jobs right here in Canada.
Prison watchdog has ‘grave’ concerns that CSC rates Indigenous, Black inmates as higher risk

Disproportionate number of Black and Indigenous offenders placed in higher security institutions by the CSC ‘doesn’t add up,’ says Sen. Bernard.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGT ALLEN

Indigenous and Black prisoners continue to be more likely to be placed in higher security prisons, which justice advocates say is a clear example of systemic racism within the Correctional Service of Canada, leading to longer sentences and unfair treatment.

Faced with already high rates of federal incarceration disproportionate to these populations numbers in Canada, new data released by the Correctional Service of Canada show how it exacerbates the unfair treatment both Black and Indigenous prisoners face, said Independent Senator Kim Pate.

“At the root is a fundamental misunderstanding, or refusal, to accept that systemic discrimination exists,” said Sen. Pate (Ontario), calling it a “massive problem.”

The latest numbers, released to The Hill Times last week, are another data point in a long trend Canada’s correctional investigators have tracked over the past two decades, and come as no surprise to the current watchdog, Ivan Zinger.

Both he and Sen. Pate pointed to silence from the CSC following a 2018 Supreme Court decision that found the agency’s risk assessment tools may discriminate against Indigenous offenders, a determination also made by the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 2018. Before those assessment tools help determine whether a prisoner should be placed under more security, and are considered the key to deciding parole, both Black and Indigenous offenders are more likely to serve less safe sentences, and remain beyond their eligibility for statutory release, successful reports by the prison watchdog have found.

“If the risk assessment tools aren’t reliable and valid for Indigenous people and are overclassifying people, then you’ve got a systemic issue and that’s of grave concern to my office,” said Mr. Zinger.

The CSC did not respond by filing a deadline to questions about what it has done to address that court decision and Mr. Zinger’s concerns.

Even when the Supreme Court of Canada judgment tells the service to rettool their risk assessment measures, the service has yet to do that, to publicly respond to that, “to ensure those tools are both culturally sensitive and are reliable for these populations,” said Mr. Zinger.

Such tools need to be designed “from the ground up,” and better assess an inmate’s circumstances so they aren’t penalized—as is the case now, he said—for coming from community where there are low unemployment rates, a breakdown in the welfare system, a lack of work opportunities, or high rates of substance abuse.

Though Indigenous people make up less than five per cent of Canada’s population, they accounted for 30.14 per cent, or 4,135 inmates—of the total in custody prison population of 13,720 in 2019-20. Of that, 38.5 per cent were sent to maximum security, 31.6 per cent to medium, 24 per cent to minimum, and 23.2 per cent weren’t classified. In 2014-15, the CSC’s numbers indicate 29.2 per cent of the maximum and prison security was Indigenous.

The number of Indigenous people in prisons has been “creeping up” every year, noted Mr. Zinger, and that’s true of where they are placed.

When Black prisoners, the CSC’s totals are still slightly under those provided by the Office of the Correctional Investigator, which reported a total of 1,328 Black inmates by the end of 2019-20, while the CSC reported 1,308 offenders classified as Black, and in the Caribbean and sub-Saharan African ethnic groupings, which the CSC said are counted separately through the categories likely represent Black offenders, are not limited to them. Using the CSC’s numbers for these three groups, which the CSC counts together) Black inmates make up roughly 9.5 of the prison population, but only 3.5 per cent of the Canadian population. A further 12.7 per cent were in maximum security last fiscal year, followed by 9.7 per cent in medium, 6.5 per cent in minimum (with 10.1 per cent not yet classified).

For comparison Caucasian prisoners make up 49 per cent of the prisons, and 39.8 per cent in maximum security, 49 per cent in medium, and 56.2 per cent in minimum.

Placement of Black inmates ‘doesn’t add up’: Sen. Bernard

These numbers aren’t new to Independent Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard (East Preston, N.S.), a researcher who has long studied anti-Black racism and before being named a Senator in 2016 was contracted by the CSC to prepare a policy paper for the service’s National Ethnocultural Advisory Committee to address the needs of ethnocultural inmates.

Canada needs a very serious review of the classification system, she said, to unpack how systemic racism affects a person’s sentence. From her observations over the years and a recent Senate committee study, she said it’s clear racial bias and stereotyping has an impact on where prisoners are placed.

Black men have also spoken about how time is added to their sentences, said Sen. Bernard. In some cases, a fight might be racially motivated and in response to a slur, but the reaction is punished rather than the person who utters the slur.

“How is it that Black prisoners are classified at a higher level of risk, but research shows they’re less likely to reoffend?” said Sen. Bernard of data that was laid out in a 2013 prison watchdog case study focused on Black experiences in prisons. “That doesn’t make sense. That doesn’t add up.”

In particular, Black offenders are labelled as gang members based sometimes solely on the neighbourhoods they’re from, the colours they wear, or the use of what guards might consider gang signs, noted human rights lawyer Anthony Morgan, who co-founded the Sentencing and Parole Project.

“It could be all or none of those things and an individual’s life ends up being dramatically shaped by this amorphous definition,” said Mr. Morgan, adding that the definitions the CSC uses to determine gang affiliation aren’t clear and amount to an “enormously broad layer of discretion.”

That gang affiliation label comes with a heightened risk in the system’s eyes, and it’s “the one issue that seems to both distinguish and define the Black inmate experience,” said the 2013 case study, noting that while Black inmates are twice as likely to have a gang affiliation, the vast majority—70 per cent—were not gang members.

“This notion of Black dangerousness is something that pervades our society, but ends up being most pernicious when enacted through our systems like our justice system,” he said.

The CSC has “proven they can’t do this job efficiently,” added Mr. Morgan, who has advocated for these sorts of assessments to be handled by outside mental health or community organizations.

Better program, rehabilitation at lower security, "lowest security prison" also affects a prisoner’s potential for rehabilitation. The higher the security classification, the fewer the available programs and work opportunities, noted Mr. Zinger.

“That’s within the control of correctional services,” he said, and once people are in prison there are correctional outcomes they can improve, “and they have failed to do that.”

His reports have also outlined how Indigenous offenders are released much later after statutory releases than other populations, are likely to be placed in segregation, more likely to be subject to use of force, and more likely to see prolonged solitary confinement. And, once back in the community they’re more likely to be suspended and revoked.

Meanwhile, as Sen. Bernard noted, have better release outcomes, according to the 2013 case study which at the time called it a “counter-intuitive” finding that was considered beyond the scope of the analysis at the time.

The CSC has the leverage and spends an “inordinate amount” costing roughly $120,500 per year to house an inmate, Mr. Zinger noted, with an inmate-to-staff ratio that exceeded one-to-one, making it among the richest correctional systems in the world.

That price tag should come with outstanding correctional outcomes, argued Mr. Zinger, who has echoed his predecessor’s calls for significant reallocations of this budget.

Though there’s been recognition at the political level and among experts that something has to be done, Mr. Zinger said no government has been able to stop or reverse the trend of what he called the Indigenization of Canada’s prison system.

“It is time now to act, and I hope that this becomes a priority for the government,” sswaren@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times
Rideau Hall rampage could have ended very differently

The RCMP officers involved are to be commended on their poise and patience. I cannot imagine a similar peaceful surrender if someone crashed the gates of the White House.

As more businesses and services reopen, and with social gatherings increased to 10 people, we all must continue our efforts to protect each other.

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

Visit ontario.ca/coronavirus
Paid for by the Government of Ontario
The lessons of COVID-19 apply to cybersecurity, too, and we must learn them

To enact meaningful change, we should follow the lead of recent public health strategies that, if implemented correctly, can lead to bold action on cybersecurity.

As security experts know, one of the biggest areas of risk is simple human nature. Consider that it was accepted wisdom that a global pandemic was a matter of when, not if. But in the face of so many competing, pressing, or timely priorities, it’s hardly surprising that pandemic planning sat at the bottom of our collective to-do list, forcing us to play catch-up when it inevitably arrived.

This is true in the world of cybersecurity. The mass shift towards working from home and the sudden surge in COVID-19-related cyberattacks on governments, health organizations, and businesses has made it harder than ever for them to defend themselves against attackers. For years, organizations opted to make do with insufficient levels of protection, or assumed attacks were something that happened to other companies, and decided to take their chances. These options are no longer viable.

As a cyber-threat expert, I see many parallels between public health and cybersecurity. Thanks to heroic education efforts on the part of experts, millions of us now know that simple, routine tasks that once seemed harmless now have serious consequences in the age of COVID-19. A similar education must also occur in the world of cybersecurity. As we emerge from strict lockdowns, the ideal approach is for governments, the private sector, and academia to put aside their siloed approaches or competing agendas and come together with a shared purpose and a clear vision.

We can take inspiration from global initiatives, such as the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace and the World Economic Forum’s Centre for Cybersecurity, both designed to tackle this challenge. But to enact meaningful change, we should follow the lead of recent public health strategies that, if implemented correctly, can lead to bold action on cybersecurity.

Education is critical. In a pandemic, health-care professionals deal with the illness, but success rests with the ability of everyday people to avoid getting sick in the first place. The sense of responsibility is the same in cybersecurity. Email remains one of the largest entry points for cybercriminals. They use their knowledge of human psychology and gaps in security hygiene to get workers to open an email and unwittingly let them in. The more savvy workers become to the risks they face, the less likely they are to become victims. The easiest and most effective solution is to make cybersecurity education and training part of everyone’s development. Government, businesses, and educators must come together and develop a long-term strategy to help Canadians become more aware of the risks of functioning in a digital world as part of their broader education.

We know it can be done. Everyone has learned very quickly the role they have to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19, and to constantly wash hands, wear masks, and physically distance. Now we need to make everyone aware of how to follow basic passwords and other security policies as part of our daily cyber hygiene routines.

We need more front-line defenders. Even before the onset of the pandemic, we faced a growing cybersecurity skills gap that threatens our fledgling digital economy. That’s especially true in Canada. In a survey we conducted this past March, 89 per cent of Canadian IT managers agreed that the cybersecurity skills shortage has created additional cyber risks for their organization. By comparison, 73 per cent of their U.S. counterparts felt the same. Clearly the shortage is having a direct impact on the ability of organizations to adequately defend themselves.

Here is a second area where the public and private sector, working with schools, can make a significant impact. Front-line workers have been placed under great pressure during the pandemic, and demand for them in some areas spiked. Clearly the risk and stakes are far higher for the brave people dealing with COVID-19 head on, but there’s a lesson in here for the cyber world. We need a national strategy to attract people to the area of cybersecurity and get them properly trained for the threats we face in order to build an adequate long-term defence. If we don’t have enough soldiers to fight this fight, our innovation economy will struggle to keep pace.

Encouraging collaboration. When the pandemic struck, we immediately saw the effects of the lack of protective equipment, masks, ventilators, and much more. Many of those with equipment found their stockpiles of masks to be too old or defective to be of use. As well, individual researchers identified different aspects of the virus in isolation. When those findings were compared against data generated by other experts around the globe, they began to paint a clearer picture of the behaviour and symptoms of COVID-19.

In the world of cyber, the viruses are numerous and cyber attackers are constantly innovating. For that reason, the technologies that counter them are evolving faster than ever in order to keep pace. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and compatibility with popular cloud-based software are regular features of modern security tools, and are increasingly necessary to mount an effective defence. Relying on tools that may have worked a decade ago is a risky strategy for any organization, especially for government, which store massive amounts of sensitive data.

Working together, governments and businesses should follow in the lead of public health officials and take a partnership approach. Collaborate with each other widely, and share information and intelligence in real time, and work together towards a common goal, rather than in silos. Like COVID-19, cyber threats ignore borders and jurisdictions. This level of integration across jurisdictions is important to building a stronger, more resilient digital economy.

The fight against cybercrime started well before the pandemic, but has grown in importance. By adopting a spirit of partnership and working together for the good of society and the economy, the public and private sectors can take the necessary measures to mitigate the risk of criminal cyber activity.

Derek Manky is chief, security insights and global threat alliances at Fortinet’s FortiGuard Labs. The Hill Times

Derek Manky is chief, security insights and global threat alliances at Fortinet’s FortiGuard Labs. The Hill Times

The fight against cybercrime started well before the pandemic, but has grown in importance. By adopting a spirit of partnership and working together for the good of society and the economy, the public and private sectors can take the necessary measures to mitigate the risk of criminal cyber activity, writes Derek Manky. Photograph courtesy of Pixabay
COVID-19 has opened the door for conversations about health-care reform, but are we willing to listen?

Despite the tragedies of COVID-19, the recovery phase gives us an opportunity for significant policy renewal to help Canada’s sick.

Since the onset of COVID-19, governments worldwide have introduced new programs and policies to prevent widespread collapse of either economies or health systems. We have witnessed rapid action, and much of it has been creative and experimental. It has awakened new optimism that we can strengthen the systems that support our most vulnerable.

As we move past the containment phase of COVID-19 and into recovery, we need to reflect on the policy innovation we have seen and what we should start by looking at the gaps COVID-19 has highlighted—gaps that have been there all along but that can no longer be ignored. One such gap is the inadequate way we support employees when they are unable to work because they are sick.

The EI Sickness Benefit has been virtually unchanged since the 1970s. To put this into context, it was set up at a time when smoking on planes was legal, bell-bottoms were king, and universal Medicare was just getting on its feet.

It gives insured employees up to 15 weeks of financial assistance if they can’t work for medical reasons, provided they’ve qualified with more than 400 hours already worked. Although it has its drawbacks—like a rigid “on or off” system that works against gradual workforce reintegration and doesn’t work for people living with episodic conditions—it serves as an important safety net for workers who need time to recover from serious illness or injury.

But benefits are capped at 15 weeks, whether or not the worker is healthy enough to return to work. Many reach the end of their benefits before recovering and are forced with the difficult decision: lose their jobs or continue recovery. Canadians faced with that decision can include people with diseases that can be recoverable, like some cancers, or episodic in nature like multiple sclerosis (MS), both of which need a longer recovery period and increased flexibility than the existing Sickness Benefit allows. For example, the average length of treatment for people with breast and colon cancer—two of the most commonly diagnosed cancers for Canadians—ranges between 26 and 37 weeks. Unemployment among people living with MS is almost 60 per cent, which speaks to the need for flexibility and extension in this benefit to keep people attached to their workplace as they deal with the unpredictability and severity of relapses (episodic flare-ups or temporary dehilitation).

Our federal government has committed to extending the Sickness Benefit from 15 to at least 26 weeks. This commitment was reinforced in the minister of employment, workforce development, and disability inclusion’s mandate letter and was included in the 2019 election platforms of both the NDP and Bloc Québécois. Now, it is time to make the financial commitment. This is not the time to slow down, but rather the government should use this as an opportunity to fix a hole in one of our country’s crucial social safety nets. With a policy change so close to the finish line, it’s time for the final sprint. Commitments have been made, the mechanisms are in place and the end goal is well within sight.

During the COVID-19 response, governments quickly and aggressively experimented with policy innovation to give individuals and businesses the support they needed. Post-COVID, they will be taking stock of what worked best, where innovation has led to new efficiency, and how delivery of support was most effective. It is the perfect time to rethink and redesign our overall support framework for the needs of the 21st century.

And we need to make changes. We need to think about lowering the 600-hour threshold. We need to consider episodic disability. And we need our government to follow through on its promise to extend the sickness benefit to 26 weeks, at a minimum. A new multi-stakeholder report reveals that those groups and sectors most affected by the EI Sickness Benefit agree it’s time for an update. Their 10 recommendations will bring greater equity into a system that affects us all.

Despite the tragedies of COVID-19, the recovery phase gives us an opportunity for significant policy renewal to help Canada’s sick. The year 2020 is our chance to fix what has long been broken. Modernizing the EI Sickness Benefit would be a step in the right direction. Let’s take this opportunity.

Pamela Valentine is president and CEO of the MS Society of Canada and Andrea Seale is CEO of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Hill Times
Letters to the Editor

Nuclear power a safely regulated solution, says stakeholder

Globally, COVID-19 case numbers continue to rise. The health, security, and economies of millions, including Canada’s, are at risk. On June 27, Canada committed $300-million in new and additional aid toward an emergency, humanitarian response. This is a start. However, an amount closer to $1.5-billion is needed to help ensure access to medicines, diagnostics, vaccines, and tackle the growing global humanitarian crises.

It is also important that Canada commit to a permanent increase in Canadian aid (Official Development Assistance) to ensure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that those most vulnerable in dealing with humanitarian emergencies have access to the services they need.

Weaknesses throughout our global health systems are many. We need to #LeaveNoOneBehind. On April 21, the United Nations projected that COVID-19 could double the number of people facing severe food insecurity worldwide to 265 million. Economies are being devastated, critical food supply chains are being disrupted, and famines of biblical proportions are impacting millions. The health, security, and economies of all countries, including Canada’s, are at risk.

Despite the gravity of the situation and the role that international development can play in the global response, this week’s editorial in The Globe and Mail raises fears as if Canada has already declared defeat in the face of the humanitarian emergency.

Kenney’s tunnel vision for U.S. pipeline hurting Canadian interests, reader says

Why is Alberta Premier Jason Kenney so determined to keep his aim on the closest U.S. target to bust through the pipeline barriers? Why not test entries to the east or north?

What is it in Alberta that Mr. Kenney is determined not to share with the rest of Canada? To the point now that Irving Oil and Cenovus are now using the Panama Canal to transport the good stuff. What will that rest of Canada do? Osaka and the industry squandered valuable time in not testing softer borders across Canada and even more easterly into the U.S.

The bumbling ram approach may garner votes, but that is all it will achieve given the U.S.’s clear signal that it is steadily growing its share of the energy market globally. Why would it want more from Canada? Or to help Canada keep its precarious footing? The window of opportunity now is closing via eastern portals to the south as lobby groups on a range of grounds are starting to protest the stateside presence.

And why is Mr. Kenney so determined to try to ram his way south via his current geographical path? What will that do for Alberta that he does not wish to share with the rest of us?

The above approach does not pass the whiff test for western political IS and is a cost to the overall best interests of the Canadian public.

Marnie Shaw
calgary, Alta.
Don’t silence the voice of justice when it matters

Recent global protests have shown that the battle against apartheid—much like the long-fought battle against slavery—continues in a much-larger war against global systemic, institutionalized racism.

The silence and indifference of most in the international community when South Africa was suffering under apartheid was inexcusable. It was this silence that provided the fertile ground for a pernicious system of institutionalized racial segregation to linger. For years, Black South Africans struggled to breathe freely as they were incessantly dehumanized and presented to the world as incapable of adapting to modern civilization. Nelson Mandela, from a crime against humanity, but still, the oppression of non-whites in South Africa continued unabated.

The world is in flux. Global uncertainty abounds. Long-simmering tensions—whether brought on by racism or inequality—have surfaced. On the eve of what would have been Nelson Mandela’s birthday, South Africa remembers Canada’s unwavering support for the anti-apartheid movement.

In many ways, South Africa was that loud, obnoxious, racist uncle at the dinner table. Annoying, but best ignored and left unchallenged. And so the evil of apartheid and racism in South Africa became deeply rooted because of the inaction, the indifference, and the silence of those who stood to benefit from the system. Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia (1930–74), who played a key role in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), aptly said that: “Throughout history it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.”

It was in the early 1980s that Canada’s leadership bravely took the initiative and led the international community in an effort to untangle the Gordian knot that was apartheid South Africa, firmly placing this country on the “right side of history.”

In June 1990, four months after his release from his 27-year imprisonment, Nelson Mandela became the first non-head of state to address a joint sitting of the Houses of Commons and the Senate in Canada. In his address, recognizing Canada’s role in South Africa’s fight against human rights’ abuse and injustice, Nelson Mandela said: “We are made better human beings by the fact that you have reached out from across the seas to say that yes, too, the rebels, the fugitives; the prisoners, deserve to be heard.”

In June of this year, South Africa and Canada marked the 30-year anniversary of that momentous occasion, an occasion which would have been celebrated differently had it not been for necessary restrictions brought about by COVID-19. South Africa continues to appreciate the stance taken by Canada, risking its relations with some of its allies, in the ongoing fight against racism.

Unfortunately, recent global protests have shown that the battle against apartheid—much like the long-fought battle against slavery—continues in a much-larger war against global systemic institutionalized racism.

On Sunday, July 18, the world will commemorate International Nelson Mandela Day. The Nelson Mandela Foundation encourages everybody to mark this day: to engage in activities that inspire change; to make a difference to someone, or a community that needs it most. In marking this day, the South African High Commission has partnered with Food for Thought, a non-profit organization, and Joe Thottungal, the award-winning chef and owner of Ottawa’s Coconut Lagoon and Thali restaurants, to provide a meal to those who cannot cook for themselves, or who live in housing without adequate cooking facilities.

In the midst of COVID-19 health and safety advisories, your International Nelson Mandela Day activity could be as simple as introspection, reflection, and sharing some thoughts at home with friends and family on issues around racism, white privilege, human rights, and the dangers of indifference. I appeal to you not to become despondent, but to stand for what is right, because no one has to be treated inhumanly from cradle to grave because of skin colour.

Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo is high commissioner of the Republic of South Africa in Canada.

The Hill Times
The U.S. president has adopted a scorched-earth campaign intended somehow to reverse the political devastation caused by his mishandling of COVID-19 and the racial justice movement.

Les Whittington

**Comment**

OTTAWA—U.S. President Trump seems increasingly like a mad king—besieged on all sides, raging away in the wreckage of his castle, vowing defeat and destruction to his endless list of perceived enemies.

His latest outrage, which led to renewed comparisons of the U.S. under Trump to a Third World dictatorship, came the night of July 10, as the president granted clemency to his long-time friend and convicted felon Roger Stone. Stone was facing a 40-month prison sentence for lying to the U.S. Congress during an investigation into whether Trump’s campaign colluded with Russia in 2016 election.

Stone’s lying was in part to cover up for Trump, prosecutors had said, and his re-prieve was denounced as a flagrant abuse of power that makes former president Richard Nixon look discrete. Yet Sen. Mitt Romney was the only Republican to quickly criticize the move. “An American president [commuting] the sentence of a person convicted by a jury of lying to shield that very president” constitutes “unprecedented, historic corruption,” Romney said.

The affair capped a two-month period in which Trump has thrust aside whatever marginal notions he might have had of acceptable conduct, democratic norms, or reality. Instead he’s adopted a scorched-earth campaign intended somehow to reverse the political devastation caused by his mishandling of COVID-19 and the racial justice movement. It marks a turning point in his White House tenure and, potentially, U.S. history.

Trump adds.

There is no awareness of the need to seriously address officially sanctioned violence against Black people. Trump has called Black Lives Matter a “symbol of hate.” Resisting efforts to remove statues and sculptures in a proposed “National Garden of American Heroes,” honouring, among others, religious figures, police officers “killed or injured in the line of duty” and opponents of national socialism or international socialism.

Sideline U.S. scientists despite rising COVID-19 deaths, Trump has demanded as part of a strategy to paper over his mishandling of the virus that schools fully reopen in the fall, even saying foreign post-secondary students would be kicked out of the U.S. otherwise. And, as part of a wider Republican campaign, Trump is working to suppress the Nov. 3 vote by falsely claiming mail-in ballots would promote voter fraud.

All this is happening amid the worst plunge in the president’s poll standings yet, with independents and some Republican voters deserting Trump over his performance on COVID-19 and race. But there’s three and a half months to go before voting day, and it’s impossible to say which, if any, markers will hold up for that long, given the completely uncharted political territory Americans now find themselves in.

Les Whittington is a regular columnist for The Hill Times.
When you win against Phoenix, it is but a Pyrrhic victory

Although Phoenix has provided me with fodder for several columns, it has been like a nagging toothache for almost four years.

But rather than asking Revenue Canada, it wanted me to pay them. Had I been correct, the audit would have had to pay back the taxes, but as a retiree, I was far from it. As 2017 wore on, I pointed out the funds deposited in my account were equal to two pays. But it still wanted its money. I provided a detailed accounting from 2016 to 2017 and thought I was making headway. Then in 2018, a retroactive pay agreement I should have received was confiscated by the government. I was furious.

With the news the Public Service Alli- of Canada (PSAC) and the government have settled on damages of up to $2,500 for people affected by the Phoenix debacle, I felt I should share my news.

There is no exclamation mark there, nor should there be. Although Phoenix has provided me with fodder for several columns, it has been like a nagging toothache for almost four years.

Quick summary: I took leave without pay from Global Affairs in the summer of 2016 to work for the premier of New--foundland and Labrador. While I was away, Phoenix continued to pay me. I kept track of the payments and was ignored when I offered to pay back the money accumu- lating in my bank account. I returned to Ottawa in December of 2016, and the issue was still unresolved. Finally, in February 2017, I was able to pay back the $20,000 I owed.

I thought that was it, but unfortunately, in June, he wrote to say I would receive the comfort pay on which I had been counting.

Procurement Canada (PSPC), my calcula- tions were often ignored with a comment that “I have to check Phoenix,” even though it was a clear case of “garbage in, garbage out.” One pay clerk provided me with a use- ful spreadsheet showing “ghost cheques” issued by Phoenix that I never received. When seeming friendly, they consistently fought my claims for a reimbursement. Finally, this spring, PSPC transferred my file to a very capable pay officer at Global Affairs Canada. He admitted my case was the most complex he had seen, and promised to get to the bottom of it. In June, he wrote to say I would receive the compensation I sought.

It is a Pyrrhic victory. Over the last four years, I dedicated at least 50 hours each year to Phoenix: consulting my pay stubs, studying spreadsheets, calculating my own accounts, writing PSPC, talking on the phone to pay clerks, dealing with Revenue Canada, writ- ing Members of Parliament. That is more than 200 hours since 2016, or the equivalent of six weeks of work. And I have yet to receive an explanation or apology.

Multiply my experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix. It is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell says that if you multiply his by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell says that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Andrew Caddell writes that if you multiply his experience by the 200,000 people affected by Phoenix, it is tens of millions of hours of misery. The Times photograph by Andrew Macleod

Canada needs foreign policy for the 21st century

Canada’s 21st century foreign policy will need to be much more balanced with an increased focus on containing the global threats to sustainable and more equitable growth on the planet as a whole.

With an economy heavily dependent on trade and its export sector seeking more of its products and services, Canada needs a foreign policy that allows it to have real impact. That will increasingly define the health and sustainability of our society in the years to come. While 20th century foreign policy was driven primarily by how governments interacted with great powers and their networks, and their immediate impact of such powers’ actions, 21st century foreign policy will need to be much more balanced with an increased focus on containing the global threats to sustainable and more equitable growth on the planet as a whole.

Instead of being dominated by the track of traditional diplomacy in pursuit of the best geo-strategic or commercial deal in the short term, Canada’s foreign policy needs to be firmly secured on a dual track with interaction and development expertise skilled in helping poor economies put in place the effective economic political and social structures that will allow them to meet their development goals.

If Canada’s foreign policy priorities continue to inadequately reflect these emerging 21st century realities, we cannot expect to not just meet the foreign policy leadership within the international donor community. Not only will we continue to lose the respect of the donor nations and the ready access that such a position would give us in newly emerging markets, we will also continue to see catastrophic shortfalls, globally, in addressing the exis- tential threats from accelerated warming of the planet, rapid population growth, and its impact on global demand for finite natural resources (especially fresh water, fertile soil, and food) as well as new emerging pandemics. These trends, if left unchecked, will contribute to a breakdown in the global order and the regional alliances that have held it in place since the end of the Second World War.

As emphasized time and again in UN policy statements, while until now fresh-cutting with inter- state threats have been the diplomats and defence experts of individual sovereign states, the emerging 21st century threats can no longer be managed effectively by individual states alone—not even by the super powers. Today, they present a com- mon threat and require a shared response amongst like-minded states appreciative of and committed to enhancing the global good. This, in turn, requires the accumulat- ed knowledge of economists, governance specialists, and international development experts who can ensure that Canada’s 21st century global presence makes truly mean- ingful contributions to the development of those states that will have the greatest impact on the inexorable trends that define the future of our planet.

Had our policy instruments reflected more equitably this dual-track approach, we would have no doubt today be a member of the UN Security Council and in much stronger position to influence both Canada’s future and that of the global commons.

Joseph Ingram is the chairman of Capi- talis Partners, a former president of the North South Institute, and a former World Bank special adviser to the United Nations and the World Trade Organiza- tion. He is an expert adviser to the Global Growth Dialogue and a fellow of the Cana- dian Global Affairs Institute.
“The summer’s often the time to strengthen your fortifications or build up your beachheads and it’s harder to do this year,” says Tim Powers.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

For politicians, the summer is normally a time for the so-called barbecue circuit, to bounce from event to event rubbing shoulders with community members and building support. For the government, it can fan out cabinet ministers to make funding announcements and—in normal times—Conservative leadership hopefuls would be using these months to build public momentum.

In normal times, the barbecue circuit can be a good time for MPs to connect with constituents to take stock of how the past year went and preview what’s coming up, and how members of the community are feeling about the government, noted Elliot Hughes, a senior adviser at Summa Strategies.

Times have shifted politically as usual and the summer circuit is no different, but strategists say politicians can strike a balance and still get on the road—virtually, if necessary—to get a scaled-down benefit of these interactions.

“COVID’s made a hybrid of all our lives and it’s equally true of the summer political barbecue circuit,” said Tim Powers, a long-time Conservative, a former party adviser, and vice-chairman of Summa Strategies. “Perhaps in this case, political events.

Typically, those announcements would take place at events, including a couple appearances at food banks in recent weeks and before this, Mr. MacKay visited a farming family to make a number of spending announcements while visiting a café in Chelsea, Que.

Conservative leadership hopeful Peter MacKay, back on the road, said that there’s been an upsurge in substitute events in recent weeks, including virtual meetings in communities across the country, inviting media to join MPs at the virtual events.

Both with provinces like Ontario allowing larger gatherings and more businesses to open, and the Atlantic provinces forming their own bubble, it’s still possible for politicians to be strategic in their event planning. There are a number of considerations at play during this pandemic, including limiting damages and opting for outdoor events or large venues where people can remain distant, noted Luc Régimbal to highlight how businesses are serving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and other economic measures. Strategists say politicians are now more comfortable being seen out in public, but they’ll have to strike a balance with social distancing measures.

On June 11, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited with Regional Awards and Promotions owner Luc Régimbal to highlight how businesses are benefiting from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and other economic measures. Strategists say politicians are now more comfortable being seen out in public, but they’ll have to strike a balance with social distancing measures.

The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Hybrid summer circuit is cards as politicians try to strike balance between public health and politics

On June 11, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited with Regional Awards and Promotions owner Luc Régimbal to highlight how businesses are benefiting from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and other economic measures. Strategists say politicians are now more comfortable being seen out in public, but they’ll have to strike a balance with social distancing measures.

Visual content is still king: pollster Greg Lyle

Innovative Research Group pollster Greg Lyle said the public is very conservative about taking risks and less willing to go to events it perceives as “extra,” like going to restaurants or movie theatres, or perhaps in this case, political events.

“One of the big concerns is the behaviour of others,” he said, so people will be cautious in crowds.

“The truth is that visual content is king, not just for the media, but for social media,” he said, so politicians will still seek clips to spread a positive message similar to those posted in summers past.

In this context, politicians can’t do momentum events, but that’s more of a boost at the end of a campaign, and more necessary for a minority government in the first year of the governing party, he noted.

“If you’re at the location at the bridge or the building or the new road… that’s going to be a good picture, lots of people are going to recognize it, it’s going to get more circulation than if you just make the announcement of spending and send it out by email,”

This moment calls for creative thinking, agreed Mr. Baran, who said political teams are finding creative ways to substitute for the traditional big crowds standing behind the politician holding a cheque or making an announcement.

“Find backdown imagery that speaks to the content of your message. It doesn’t have to be a wall of people behind you. If you’re making an announcement on food security, go to a market in front of a fruit stall. Something that reinforces the message that you’re trying to convey.”

Striking a balance is what’s most important, said Mr. Powers.

“You have to be nimble, you have to be smart, you have to be sensitive that people are so focused on COVID that overt partisanship, either from the government or from the opposition, is not going to go over super well,” he said.

That pressure is “most acutely” on the prime minister, since he’s made an immense so front and centre in the pandemic response with the once-daily briefings.

“It bore political fruit in the management of the COVID response that he’s got to be careful with his transition back into political party leader and I don’t know if you’ll see that as much as you normally would in past summers,” Mr. Powers said.

Mr. Trudeau attending the protest against anti-Black racism and police brutality in Ottawa on June 5, and kneeling among the crowd was likely the exception in what Canadians find acceptable, Mr. Lyle said.

As for whether the barbecue circuit served a political purpose in the best of times, both Mr. Trudeau and former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper offer good examples where the answer is yes, noted Mr. Powers. It’s served as a useful tool to strengthen prime ministerial relationships and build on strengths and address weaknesses in different parts of the country.

For Harper, when he was in opposition and early on as prime minister, he would use the summer to shore up and build relationships in parts of the country where work was needed,” Mr. Powers said, also noting to both his and Mr. Scheer’s work in Quebec, while Mr. Trudeau has used the summer circuit to hit ridings he wouldn’t normally visit.

Where campaigns could show a packed room to demonstrate momentum, now he’s noted efforts to communicate the same differences in people actively listening and people logging into a virtual town hall.

In one stop in Orillia, Ont., on July 8, four MPs in the room werej sitting in their rooms, and a new opposition leader would be introducing themselves to the public.

Where campaigns could show a packed room to demonstrate momentum, now he’s noted efforts to communicate the same differences in people actively listening and people logging into a virtual town hall.

In one stop in Orillia, Ont., on July 8, four MPs in the room were sitting in their rooms, and a new opposition leader would be introducing themselves to the public.

On the government side, there’s no doubt need for that morale boost, since all across Canada it’s in a strong position, said Mr. Lyle. That’s still true even as normal politics starts to return, with those less favorable to the government less likely to give as strong support as they did in March and April.

“What they really need right now is to be seen to be planning for the next wave, that’s the absolute No. 1 priority. If they get into the fall and people die in long-term care facilities at the level they’re dying right now, that’s going to be a very unpopular government, I don’t care what they did this summer.”

The reality is that we’re in a time where political matters, he said.

“We’re in a time where government truly matters and government failures have severe political consequences. The first wave everyone took by surprise, and I think the government got a break. They will not get a break the second time.”

swaller@hiltimes.com

The Hill Times
Trudeau’s penchant for political appointees shows lack of appreciation for ambassadors’ work: former senior diplomat

[Trudeau] neglects the fact that you need experience and competent people,” says Guy Saint-Jacques, a former Canadian ambassador to China from 2012 to 2016.

Continued from page 1

The use of political appointees for diplomatic posts has been a tradition in Canadian diplomacy going back to former prime minister Brian Mulroney. Past prime minister Stephen Harper raised eyebrows for appointing Toronto lawyer Vivian Bercovici as ambassador to Israel, Bruno Saccomani—who previously was the head of his RCMP security detail—as envoy to Jordan, former House of Commons Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers as ambassador to Ireland, and defeated former foreign affairs minister Lawrence Cannon as envoy to France.

Mr. Trudeau selected Kirsten Hillman, a career diplomat, as Canada’s ambassador to the U.S. She is the first career diplomat in the post since Michael Kergin held the role from 2008 to 2005. Former diplomat Gilles Rivard, president of the Retired Heads of Mission Association, said when a political appointee gets a top job, there is always a question if the appointee makes the most sense, adding that in Washington, D.C., having a political appointee in the role gave Canada greater access. Although Mr. Harper appointed career diplomats to the UN post, Mr. Robertson said the appointments of Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Rae shows the added emphasis that Mr. Trudeau places on the UN, adding that sending his Mr. Rae to New York City shows that Canada is still “quite serious” about the UN despite the unsuccessful Security Council election.

Canadian International Council president Ben Rowswell, a former Canadian ambassador to Venezuela, said in email that the disadvantage in appointing career diplomats is that the foreign service generates “uniformity in thinking.” “The best ambassadors are independent thinkers who can speak directly to a prime minister and influence his decisions,” he said, adding that is why Mr. Rae is the “best person” for the UN job. He has more than 20 years of experience as a political affairs officer on issues ranging from terrorism, federalism, and human rights—but importantly, he led this work as an independent agent, coming up with his own judgements on the application of Canada’s interests. That makes his perspective even more valuable than someone who has been in the system for decades.

He added that the foreign service needs a change to reward “innovation and new thinking.”

Conservative MP Stephanie Kusie (Calgary Midnapore, Alta.), who serves on Canada’s charging committee on external affairs in El Salvador and was a policy adviser to then-minister of state for foreign Affairs for the Americas Peter Kent (Thornhill, Ont.), praised Ottawa’s continued practice of selecting political appointees for diplomatic posts.

“You can get good people out of both systems, and you can get bad people out of both systems,” she said.

She said while political appointees don’t always know the practices of the foreign service, they can bring government policies in depth and know the prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

In her time in the foreign service, Ms. Kusie said she saw the same high-level people being recycled over again for various heads of missions.

“It’s frustrating and demoralizing for lower people that want the opportunity to do a high job,” she said, adding that another issue is the rule that diplomats are restricted in creating policy and speaking to the media.

“The golden ticket isn’t always foreign service officers, because in a way it is its own political party among the same people,” Ms. Kusie said. “It’s good to have a healthy mixture of both as long as they are intelligent, [have] good judgement, and are courageous to implement the political ideology, but tactful in doing that.”

Independent Senator Peter Boehm (Ontario), a former career diplomat who served as ambassador to Germany and was Mr. Trudeau’s G7 sherpa, said the selection of political appointees is cyclical.

“If you want to have a head of mission who is plugged in to the centre to the PMO and the PCO, you’ll go with a political appointee if it makes sense to do so,” he said.

He said the Canadian system is nothing compared to the one the U.S. has, where a large number of its ambassadors around the world are political appointees.

Sen. Boehm said Mr. Rae is “cut out” for multilateral work, adding that some on the political side wonder if that quality, comparing him to past UN ambassador and former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis.

Syrine Khoury said Mr. Rae will “continue to strengthen Canada’s presence at the UN and on the world stage,” adding that the selection of ambassadors is based on their “fast and varied experience,” and the political appointees are “highly qualified individuals who bring a unique set of skills and knowledge in line with our foreign policy objectives.”

A Liberal source told The Hill Times on background that it’s important political appointees have a wide-range of experience and skills beyond being diplomats, citing Mr. Blanchard’s work in the private sector being helpful at the UN on developmental funding. The source said it is important to have vast experience, including backgrounds in politics and business, in order to send countries around the world a message that diplomacy is important to Canada.

The use of political appointees for diplomatic posts has been a career diplomat would be better suited to handle the post. But in the case of Mr. Rae, he said, already has some experience on the world stage in his special envoy roles. Mr. Rae was a former NDP premier of Ontario and the interim federal Liberal leader from 2011 to 2013. Mr. Rivard, a former permanent representative to the UN and ambassador to Haiti, said the danger of selecting political appointees is seen in the case of Mr. McCallum.

He said more and more political appointees will be discouraging for those in the foreign service who want to hold those positions.

“You’re obvious that it affects the morale of people,” he said.

The head of the government representing foreign service officers said there is a recognition that it is the government’s prerogative to appoint the people it wants.
A look at rookie MP Sloan’s underdog leadership campaign

Team Sloan is led by former Scheer staffer Paula Iturri, and includes Ashley Brown as tour director and Daniel Paolini, who’s currently a member of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party executive.

Eric Lowther, who represented Calgary Centre, Alta., from 1997 to 2000; former Saskatchewan Conservative MP Brad Trost (a social conservative who has also endorsed Ms. Lewis); and Richard Décarie, a former deputy chief of staff to Stephen Harper as opposition leader whose own attempt to run for leadership was rejected by the party, Mr. Décarie has encouraged his would-be supporters to instead rank Mr. Sloan No. 1 on their ballots.

Mr. Sloan has also notably been endorsed by two socially conserva- tive advocacy groups—the Campaign for Life Coalition and REAL Women of Canada—and Rebel Media founder Ezra Levant.

Mr. Trost said while she’s worked on previous campaigns, it’s his understanding that this is the first campaign Ms. Iturri is overseeing. “Paula’s fairly new, but has tons of energy,” he said.

Daniel Paolini is also working on Mr. Sloan’s campaign—though his exact role is unclear, his name has been offered up to media try ing to contact the campaign. He’s currently on the Ontario Progress ive Conservative Party’s executive as regional vice-president for southwest Ontario. (Also cur rently on the executive is Mélanie Paradis, deputy campaign manager to Conservative leadership candidate Erin O’Toole, as second vice-president).

A social conservative with a perceived populist bent, Mr. Sloan has, among other things, pledged to reduce annual immigration to 15,000—a roughly 25 per cent cut of Canada’s GDP within five years, and rescind a party policy (Policy 70) that declares a Conservative government will not support legislation to regulate abortions. Also notably, he gained attention early in the race when he said he thinks the “cause of sexual orientation” is “scientifically unclear” and that he would not ban conversion therapy.

After multiple attempts to connect over multiple weeks, the campaign declined The Hill Times’ interview request on July 9.

Paula Iturri is serving as Mr. Sloan’s campaign manager. Ms. Iturri is a former Hill assist ant to outgoing Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer in his capacity as the MP for Regina—Qu’Appelle, Sask. In 2017, short ly after he took over the party’s helm, she left Mr. Scheer’s MP office to become a community relations manager in his then new office as leader, ultimately spending roughly a year in all in the OLO.

Mr. Paolini has spent the last two years as a legislative assistant to Ontario PC MP Rick Nicholls, who represents Chatham-Kent-Leamington, Ont., before which he was a commu nications specialist with Com petitive Community Care in London, Ont.

Ashley Brown, in an email response to The Hill Times, identi fied herself as tour director for Mr. Sloan’s campaign. Mr. Trost was seen to have surprised many when he made it to the 11th ballot, ultimately placing fourth in the 2017 Conservative leadership race, just behind Mr. O’Toole, thanks to the support of social conservatives, many of whom went on to propel Mr. Scheer to victory.

Reached by The Hill Times last week, Mr. Trost confirmed he’s been fielding calls and of fer ing advice to both Mr. Sloan’s and Ms. Lewis’ campaigns as an “informal” volunteer, and said he’s put his name on a “couple of fund raising pieces” put out by Team Sloan. Mr. Trost said his efforts have tapered off since early May, though he continues to make and take calls to offer advice or con nect organizers.

Asked whether his efforts were equal for both camps, Mr. Trost said it was “hard to say,” explaining basically I network with people that I know and try to send them to whichever of the two campaigns I figure they’re a better fit with.”

“After 15 years being a Mem ber of Parliament, I have a bit of a Rolodex on certain sides, when they need phones call me I can [help out],” said Mr. Trost, who served five terms as a Saskatchewan MP before losing a riding nomination challenge in 2019.

“Derek’s a rookie MP and they re ally haven’t had campaign break downs very often because of COVID.”

“I’m not crafting messages for either campaign, but again, when people need to talk to people, they phone me and they’ll say, ‘look, do you know anyone in [X] and I’ll see if I can round them up or, do you know a social conser vatist with who could do [X] or Y things like that… They’ll also ask what sort of gossip I hear and so forth for information like that.”

Over the first quarter of 2020, covering Jan. 1 to March 31, Team Sloan raised a total of $140,263 from 2,981 donations—putting them last in the pack and roughly $38,000 behind his main compet itor, Ms. Lewis. According to the CBC’s Eric Gré惧, when adjusted for those who donated more than once, Mr. Sloan’s tally works out to 2,477 individual donors.

The CLC, a national anti abortion group, has endorsed both Mr. Sloan and Ms. Lewis for leader, giving them grades of A-plus and A, respectively, “based on the number and quality of socially conservative policies put forth by each candidate, as well as how outspoken each of them has been on life & family issues,” as explained on its website.

“The remaining candidates are disqualified from consideration owing to their support for abortion, which is a disqualifying factor for pro-life voters. Please do not rank their names on the ballot, ” reads the CLC’s voter guide. “By strategically withhold ing support from politicians who promote and affirm abortion, we will be cultivating more courage ous leaders in the future.”

Mr. Plante, who’s now a senior director with the public affairs firm TACT in Montreal and whose past political roles include serving as chief of staff to then infrastructure minister Denis Lebel and as a special adviser to Mr. Mackay, said he has no social media or conversations with other party members, he thinks as many as 75 per cent of Mr. Sloan’s first-ballot supporters could vote for him to help support either of the race frontrunners, Mr. O’Toole and Mr. MacKay.

Mr. Sloan’s performance during the French leaders’ debate got him some media attention, with observers lauding his better-than expected showing and even saying he can speak Canada’s other official language.

Despite this, Mr. Plante said he doesn’t expect Mr. Sloan to advance beyond the first ballot—assuming there is even more than one in this leadership race—and anticipates Ms. Lewis will fare bet ter of the two, given her appeal to a broader base.

He may have pleasantly sur prised a few members, but I think it’s still a little uncertain whether he will end up seven, eight per cent on the first ballot, but that’s going to be it,” said Mr. Plante.

Conservative Party member Yaroslav Baran, a partner at Earnscleive Strategy Group and a former federal staffer who said he’s “100 per cent” behind Mr. Mackay in the race, said Mr. Sloan’s cam paign is the only one he hasn’t received a lot of phone calls or outreach efforts from—which, for him, suggests less organiza tion and spending. If he’s right, it seems Mr. Sloan can’t expect the rookie MP will ultimately place no “a distant fourth,” he said. Mr. Plante, when asked whether his party would support whom ever is the last one standing within the party that I’ve talked to, is, ‘wow, Leslyn Lewis is pretty impressive, she’s articulate, she takes a reasoned, moderate, not ideological approach to social con servatism’… whereas in contrast he [Mr. Sloan] comes off as just … Derek’s a rookie MP and they really haven’t had campaign breakdowns very often because of COVID.”

The Mainstreet Research poll of 7,508 Conservative Party members, published May 22 and conducted through automated telephone inter views on May 20 and 21, found that, when asked who they would support if there was a leadership vote held that day, just 6.4 per cent of respondents said they would vote for Mr. Sloan. Mr. O’Toole was the clear frontrunner with 38.6 per cent, followed by Mr. O’Toole with 31.2 per cent, and Mr. Lewis with 20.9 per cent. The top four of 10 respondents said they were undecided. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.1 per cent.
There’s been a normalization of hateful language online, says terrorism expert Jessica Davis, who noted a “Trudeau effect” in the extreme animosity voiced by some online.

Continued from page 1

firm MNP, which did not respond to a request for comment.

Terrorism expert Jessica Davis said she’s watched the normalization of hateful language online, and remains very concerned about extreme-right threats. The “stark” words from Mr. Wernick are relevant when considering the recent events at Rideau Hall, she said, as part of that theme.

Though there are many factors at play, it’s difficult to downplay what Ms. Davis called the Trudeau effect.

“She really does seem to inspire a particular level of animosity, mostly in the West, but also in other parts of the country as well,” she said of the hateful rhetoric aimed at Mr. Trudeau and Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

“The sort of vitriol that Mr. Trudeau really was unheard until really recently,” she said. “I think people were unaware of the scale of it.”

Mr. Hurren was reading and posting in far-right content online. “I think people who hold those views, it’s just like there were too many visible minorities coming to Canada as immigrants. By the 2019 election, the response had widened to a 55-point difference, noted Mr. Graves, president of Ekos Research Associates.

“So a very intense polarization has long ended and been replaced with an ‘us against them’ rhetoric when discussing the Conservative Party of Canada,” he said, pointing to some CPC messaging that calls for the party to “take back Canada,” which “is a fear and critical urgency that I think could have unintended consequences.”

On the Liberal side, Mr. Trudeau’s conciliatory tone on election night has long ended and been replaced with an “us against them” rhetoric when discussing the Conservative Party of Canada, he said, pointing to some CPC messaging that calls for the party to “take back Canada,” which “is a fear and critical urgency that I think could have unintended consequences.”

The intense politicization in the United States also feeds into this conversation as well, said Ms. Davis. And while Canada has a very different political context, a lot of our extremists share ideas across that border.

“That cross pollination of ideas happens regardless of whether it makes any sense,” Ms. Davis explained.

But changing the political discourse may not make a difference, noted Mr. Graves. “It’s going to be a socially disintegrating effect and propel us in the direction of what we see south of the border.”

The intense politicization in the United States also feeds into this conversation as well, said Ms. Davis. And while Canada has a very different political context, a lot of our extremists share ideas across that border.

“That cross pollination of ideas happens regardless of whether it makes any sense,” Ms. Davis explained.

But changing the political discourse may not make a difference, noted Mr. Graves. “It’s going to be a socially disintegrating effect and propel us in the direction of what we see south of the border.”

The intense politicization in the United States also feeds into this conversation as well, said Ms. Davis. And while Canada has a very different political context, a lot of our extremists share ideas across that border.

“That cross pollination of ideas happens regardless of whether it makes any sense,” Ms. Davis explained.

But changing the political discourse may not make a difference, noted Mr. Graves. “It’s going to be a socially disintegrating effect and propel us in the direction of what we see south of the border.”

The intense politicization in the United States also feeds into this conversation as well, said Ms. Davis. And while Canada has a very different political context, a lot of our extremists share ideas across that border.

“That cross pollination of ideas happens regardless of whether it makes any sense,” Ms. Davis explained.
More nuanced, test-focused approach needed to reopen Canada–U.S. border, say experts

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers has called for Canada and the United States to ‘immediately craft a comprehensive framework for phased reopening of the border.’

Continued from page 1

having been extended every month since. Recent media citing unnamed sources—indicate that the Canadian and U.S. governments have agreed to extend the closure of the border for another 30 days when the current restrictions expire on July 21. CTV reported that the two governments are “on the same page” in their decision to extend the border restrictions.

Trade consultant Eric Miller, who worked on the Beyond the Border Action Plan, which sought to make Canada-U.S. border crossings more efficient, said in order to move towards a phased border reopening there needs to be greater investment in faster testing which could be used at the border.

“The issue is not having Americans come to Canada,” said Mr. Miller. “The issue is having Canadians come to Canada, who might have COVID, come to Canada. So if you can determine who has COVID and who doesn’t have COVID, then you’re in a situation where it is possible to move to a reopening of the border.”

He added that progress is incumbent on Canada finding a way to reassure its domestic population over public safety concerns, as the U.S. is still relying on the “doctrine of hope” that the virus will just go away.

Mr. Miller said there needs to be a “credible strategy” in working towards a reopening; one that makes it clear to Canadians that those allowed to cross the border won’t be carrying the virus with them.

He said the solution lies with something that neither country has yet achieved during the pandemic: fast testing, leading to fast results.

Both countries currently lack a test that could be used quickly at the border to ensure those crossing are clear. Christopher Sands, director of the Center in Washington, D.C.

“Since the beginning of this global pandemic, we have been having friendly ongoing conversations with our American partners about our shared border. Both sides agree that the current measures in place, which are set to expire on July 21, have worked well in restricting non-essential travel while allowing essential crossings to continue unimpeded,” press secretary Katharine Coprinskas said.

Mr. Sands said he expects the Trump administration won’t be overly forceful in pushing Canada for a reopening because trade is continuing and the closure plays into its wider re-election agenda.

The upcoming U.S. election adds another wrinkle, he said, with the American president not wanting to “go over” whether U.S. President Donald Trump would be the next ambassador to Canada, Aldona Wos—who could help co-ordinate a reopening—will be confirmed by the Senate.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) said on July 13 that the COVID-19 pandemic remains “complex” in the U.S. Last week, the U.S. set a new record for a single-day spike of more than 68,000 cases—the seventh such spike in 11 days.

Conservative MP Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg-Haute-Saint-Charles, Que.), his party’s public safety critic, said in an email that Mr. Trudeau needs to tell Canadians what benchmarks will be used to lift border restrictions.

“We believe that any future action on reopening the border to non-essential travellers between Canada and the United States must have public safety as a priority. We also believe that Justin Trudeau and his government failed to provide leadership on this file and that a ‘path forward’ should have been created months ago to help Canadians, Canadian industry, including SME’s (small and medium-sized enterprises), weather the COVID-19 storm along with adapting to and preparing for the new realities this crisis brings,” he said.

NDP MP Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, B.C.) is his party’s health critic, said in a statement that the Canadian federal government “is being clear” with the Trump administration that the “number one priority must be the health and safety of Canadians.”

“Reopening the border prematurely is simply not the right thing to do when we have not yet gained control,” he said.

Mr. Norton said the initial online response against the Northern Border Caucus’ letter was uninformative and ideologically based. He added there will be a need for levels of government in Canada to educate and impress upon Canadians that there is nuance in discussions about a phased reopening of the border, plans for which could come with negligible risk.

“We should be willing to look at those to see if they exist,” he said.

The call for a path forward to reopen the Canada-U.S. border was met with scorn north of the border. The group has called for a bipartisan approach to the border and not a universal approach to the 8,891 kilometre dividing line.

“It’s not just a big, monolithic keep the border entirely closed or keep the border entirely open—it’s got to be more nuanced than that,” she said.

She said that approach should take into consideration the public safety of the two nations, but also developments like testing and tracking of the virus.

Ms. Greenwood said the letter is an indication that the border can’t just have an indefinite closure.

A spokesperson for Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland (University-Rosedale, Ont.) told The Hill Times in an email that decisions on the border will be “made by Canadians, for Canadians.”
Hage-Moussa returns to PMO as deputy comms director after Deagle exits

On the flip side, former PMO staffer John Power has returned the Hill to join Innovation, Science, and Industry Minister Navdeep Bains’ team.

Jordan Deagle, one of two deputy directors of communications in the Prime Minister’s Office, recently marked his last day on Parliament Hill, and this week, Vanessa Hage-Moussa officially replaced him, returning to her old stomping grounds in the process.

In a tweet July 3, Mr. Deagle announced it was his last day working in the PMO. “I feel deeply fortunate to have worked with so many remarkable people who strive to make Canada an even better place to live,” he wrote in the tweet. “It’s been a powerful, humbling experience and I’ll be forever grateful to [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau] for putting his faith in me.”

Staffers, media, MPs, and ministers alike responded to Mr. Deagle’s tweet with well wishes, including PMO senior adviser Sarah Goodman, who wrote that “Canada is better for his time in the PMO. He delivered on big files like LNG Canada, carbon pricing, and much more.”

Mr. Deagle had been working in the PMO since the start of the Trudeau Liberal government, starting out in November 2015 as a writer. Over the years he moved up the proverbial Hill ladder in the PMO’s office, first becoming a communications planner, then senior manager of communications planning, and finally deputy director of communications after the election last fall.

He’s also a former intern on the Hill, having been placed in the office of then-Liberal MP Scott Brison through the Jaimie Anderson Parliamentary Internship program in 2014. His brother, Kevin Deagle, is currently a senior policy adviser to Natural Resources Minister Seamus O’Regan.

Now off the Hill, Mr. Deagle has joined the private sector and is a public relations manager doing corporate communications for Amazon, according to his LinkedIn profile.

At the beginning of April, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an agreement with Amazon Canada to manage the distribution of medical and personal protective equipment like masks, face shields, gowns, ventilators and test kits needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of Mr. Deagle’s exit, Ms. Hage-Moussa returned to the PMO this week to take up the torch as a deputy director of communications in the top office.

After spending the 2015 election as an assistant to the Liberal campaign’s press secretaries, Ms. Hage-Moussa landed a job as a press secretary in the PMO, starting in January 2016, and later shifted duties to become a media advocate. She exited the office after roughly four years last January to become director of communications to Innovation, Science, and Industry Minister Navdeep Bains. During the 2019 election, Ms. Hage-Moussa had been the national Liberal campaign’s advance team lead.

Ms. Hage-Moussa has bachelor’s degree in political science and history from Concordia University, where she later earned a graduate diploma in communications studies, and has a master’s degree in international relations from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She’s also a former legislative assistant to Quebec Liberal MP Francis Scarpaleggia and a former communications, marketing, and brand intern with the CBC in Montreal, amongst other past experience.

In the PMO, Ms. Hage-Moussa joins fellow deputy director of communications Chantal Gagnon. Together, they support director of communications Cameron Ahmad.

Also currently part of the PMO’s now 19-member communications unit are: Jo-hanna Robinson, senior manager of digital and creative communications; press secretaries Alex Veltheim and Ann-Clara Vail-lancourt; communications planners Emily Trogen and Andrew MacKendrick; Riley Lange, digital and creative content co-ordi-nator; Gabrielle Cesvet, senior speechwrit-er; speechwriters Dexter Nyuurnibe and Astrid Kizun; writers Valérie Glazer and Parker Lund; communications assistant Catherine Robitaille; executive assistant Shehzaad Seward; videographer Mathieu Sfy; and photographers Adam Scotti and Alex Tétreault.

Katie Telford remains chief of staff to the PM.

Over in Mr. Bains’ office, director of parliamentary affairs and issues management Michael Power has added a third hat, at least temporarily, and is currently acting as director of communications to the minister.

Back in mid-May, Mr. Bains bade farewell to his senior adviser for communications and media relations—his de facto press secretary by another name—since the 2019 election, Véronique Simard. Ms. Simard, who also previously was press secre-tary to then-employment minister Patty Hajdu, is now working in the private sector as head of corporate communications for Nestle Nespresso in France.

But one new communications hand has already joined the minister’s office, with John Power recently taking over the role of senior adviser for communications and media relations to Mr. Bains.

John Power worked on the Hill for the Liberal government throughout the last Parliament, the last year of which he spent as an issues management adviser in the PMO. He exited in December 2019 and became a principal with Tactix Government Relations and Public Affairs later that month.

A French media monitor for the Liber-als during the 2015 campaign, John Power subsequently landed a job as a committee analyst in then-chief government whip Andrew Leslie’s office. A year and a half later, he moved over to National Revenue Min-ister Diane Lebouthillier’s office, first as a special assistant for Ontario, then as press secretary and issues manager to the minis-ter, and ending as a senior communications adviser and issues manager—a role he went on to fill in then-intergovernmental affairs minister Dominic LeBlanc’s office for six months before joining the PMO.

Hill Climbers understands that Mi-chael Power and John Power are distantly related.

Also tackling communications for Mr. Bains are communications advisers Mollie Anderson and Shauna Roddy.

Led by chief of staff Ryan Dunn, Mr. Bains’ office also currently includes: Sarah Hussaini, director of policy; Parvinder Sa-chdeva, deputy director of policy; Tasha Is-mail, director of operations; policy advisers Celine Cairia, Lambert Lorrain, and Marco Chan; Bianca Hussain, special assistant for policy; Theresa McNamus, operations adviser; parliamentary affairs and issues management advisers Sam Eberlee and Alexander Jagric; Sarah Assous, special assistant for Quebec regional affairs; Vic-toria Dempster, Atlantic regional affairs adviser; Tim Logan, special assistant for B.C. regional affairs; Amanda Woodley, assistant to Liberal MP Will Amos as Mr. Bains’ parliamentary secretary for science; and Sean Matthew O’Neill, assistant to Liberal MP Ali Ehsassi as the parliamen-tary secretary for innovation and industry.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020  |  THE HILL TIMES

Parties of the past

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

With COVID-19 putting a pause on diplomatic gatherings in Ottawa, The Hill Times is offering a look back with (some never-before-seen) images of celebrations and special events that have occurred at this time in years past.

A Royal visit

Then-prime minister Stephen Harper greets Jordanian King Abdullah II on July 14, 2007, at what was then called the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Ottawa.

Swiss soirée

Swiss Ambassador Ulrich Lehner and his wife Federica document the festivities at the Switzerland national day party at their residence on July 11, 2012.

Diana Mogollon de Suarez and her husband Francisco Suarez Dávila, the then-Mexican ambassador, greet then-French ambassador Nicolas Chapuis at the Bastille Day party on July 14, 2015.

Bahamas envoy boogies

Michael Smith, then-high commissioner of the Bahamas, celebrates his country’s national day on July 12, 2008.

Bastille Day fun

Sabine Witschel, wife of the then-German ambassador; Andrew Pocock, then-high commissioner of the United Kingdom; and Georges de la Roche Plihal, then-ambassador of Guatemala, attend the Bastille Day party on July 14, 2015.

Rosa Bellina, wife of the then-Peruvian ambassador; Ms. Lehner; Mr. Lehner; and then-Peruvian ambassador José Antonio Bellina.

Lilijana Pogorevcnik Cencen shares a laugh with Mr. Chapuis as her husband, then-Slovenian ambassador Marjan Cencen, looks on.

Ms. Lehner, Mr. Lehner, and Anu’a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi, high commissioner of Cameroon.

Rosa Bellina, wife of the then-Peruvian ambassador, Greets Peruvian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Georges de la Roche Plihal, then-ambassador of Guatemala.

Menachem, then-Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanjahu, and Major General Yair Golan, the Acting Head of Police, attend the Royal Bahamas Police Force Independence Day parade on July 10, 2007.
**Former senator Oliver joins panel to talk confronting anti-Black racism in corporate Canada on July 16**

Former senator Donald Oliver will take part in a webinar hosted by the Canadian Club of Toronto on ‘Confronting Anti-Black Racism in Corporate Canada’ on Thursday, July 16 at noon. The Hill Times file photograph

---

**Events Feature**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

**House Not Siting**—The House has not met regularly since March when it was suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The regular summer recess was scheduled to begin on June 24, but MPs agreed to meet as a committee of the whole on July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, and Aug. 26. The House is then scheduled to return in the fall on Monday, Sept. 21, for three straight weeks, as per the original House sitting calendar.

**Senate Not Sitting**—The Senate has adjourned until Sept. 22.

**Cross Canada with Ambassador Cong Peiwu**—The Canadian China Business Council hosts a webinar on policies to encourage investment in China and liberalize trade. The webinar is geared to all five of its Canadian chapters simultaneously, followed by a roundtable discussion with Cong Peiwu, China’s ambassador to Canada. Wednesday, July 15, from 11:11-45 a.m. Tickets are available for this Zoom webinar via Eventbrite.

**Webinar: Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Patients and their Ability to Receive Treatment**—Hosted by The Canadian Cancer Survivor Network. New federal policies governing the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) and the regulation of drug prices will come into effect in six months’ time (on Jan. 1, 2022). These changes have been very controversial. The PMPRB has just released its proposed guidelines to implement the new regulations and is now consulting on them with stakeholders and the public. Join CCCN and our presenters, Ryan Clarke from Advocacy Solutions and Wayne Critchley from Global Public Affairs, to learn more about the new drug pricing rules, the expected impact of the latest changes and implications for cancer patients, and receive guidance to support the cancer community’s engagement at this stage of regulatory reform.

**THURSDAY, JULY 16**

**The Future of Air Travel**—The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce hosts a webinar on “The Future of Air Travel,” exploring the future of business travel, managing travel restrictions, recovery plans, and the outlook for Edmonton, West Coast Canada and tourism. Speakers include Ferio Pogliese, senior vice-president, Air Canada Express and Government Relations; and Tom Ruth, president of Edmonton International Airport. Thursday, July 23, from 10:11 a.m. Register online. Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, July 22 at 11:11 a.m.

**Mastering the Elements of Clear Political Communication**—Kryon University hosts a webinar, “Cutting Through the Noise: Mastering the Elements of Clear Political Communication,” featuring Alison Brodsky, managing editor of digital content at the CBC, and Elamin Abdelmahmoud, news
curation editor with BuzzFeed News and a columnist for CBC radio’s Q. Thursday, July 23, from 3:30-5 p.m. Register for the Zoom event via Ryerson.

**FRIDAY, JULY 31—SATURDAY, AUG. 1**

**#CanadaPerforms at RBC Bluesfest Drive-In**—The National Arts Centre and RBC Bluesfest are pleased to announce they are coming together to present #CanadaPerforms at RBC Bluesfest Drive-In, a summer weekend series of live concerts at the Place des Festivals Zibi site, by the Kitchissippi River (Ottawa River). Concert-goers, as small pods or families, will be encouraged to drive to the site and watch live concerts in their own dedicated outdoor space. In order to safely welcome back audiences to watch live concerts, the Drive-In series will offer a physical distancing experience that respects reopening measures and protocols. Canadians will also be able to watch online the live-streamed concerts. Concerts will take place on Friday, July 31, Saturday, Aug. 1, Friday, Aug. 7, and Saturday, Aug. 8. Tickets on sale now. For the details, including additional dates and performers, go to canadaperforms OttawaBluesfest.ca.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 21**

**Conservative Party Leadership Contest**—The federal Conservative Party’s Leadership Election Organizing Committee, also known as LEC, announced on April 29 that Aug. 21 is the deadline for mail-in ballots, after the leadership was suspended on March 26 due to the global pandemic. The party says ballots that can’t be processed once the ballots can be safely counted.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 15**

**PPF Testimonial Dinner and Awards—Join us as the 33rd edition of the PPF Testimonial Dinner and Awards celebrates 35 years of successes and celebrates as the Public Policy Forum honours Canadians who have made their mark on policy and leadership. Anne McLellan and Senator Peter Harder will take the stage along with a cohort of other stellar Canadians who we’ve honoured over the last 33 years, people who have dedicated themselves to making Canada a better place through policy leadership and public service. The gala event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto.**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 24**


**FRIDAY, OCT. 30**

**CIF Awards Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence in Journalism**—The Canadian Journalism Foundation Awards will be held on Oct. 30, 2020 at the Ritz-Carlton, Toronto, hosted by Rick Mercer, former host of The Rick Mercer Report. The CBC’s Anna Maria Tremonti will be honoured. Tickets are $7,500 and tickets are $750. For more information on tables and sponsorship opportunities, contact Josh Gurfinkel at gurfinkel@cfi.ca or 416-955-0394.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 3**

**U.S. Presidential Election**—The U.S. presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. U.S. President Donald Trump is the Republican candidate and former vice-president Joe Biden is the presumptive Democratic candidate. The winner will be scheduled to be inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2021.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 12**

**Liberal Party National Convention**—The 2020 Liberal National Convention will be held in Ottawa, from Nov. 12-15. For more information, please contact: media@liberal.ca d 613-652-2384.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 20**

**Bringing Divides in Wake of a Global Pandemic**—The University of Victoria (UVic) and the Senate of Canada are bringing together change-makers at the UVic Forum to help generate solutions to some of the world’s most divisive problems. The two-day virtual forum will be held Nov. 13-14 to examine key issues that fall under the theme of “Bringing divides in wake of a global pandemic.” The forum will draw on emerging trends and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic through biweekly webinars. For more information or to register, visit www. vietnameseforum.ca.

**The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Submit your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line ‘Parliamentary Calendar’ to news@hilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can’t guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best. Events can be updated daily online, too. The Hill Times**
Stay connected to decision-makers

Inside Ottawa & Inside Canada
Now in stock

Save time, have all political phone numbers and email addresses at your fingertips.

Inside Ottawa includes:

• Federal riding profiles
• MP contact details, both Hill and constituency
• House committee clerks and membership
• Senators' contact details and committee membership
• Current photos in colour
• Prime Minister's Office and Privy Council Office staff contacts
• Ministers' offices staff contacts
• Speaker's office contacts
• Committee charts with current photos
• List of shadow cabinet and opposition critics
• Key political, government and media contacts
• Sitting calendar 2020
• Renumeration
• Session tip sheet

Inside Canada includes:

Contacts for every Province and Territorial Government:

• Legislature key contacts
• Members of the Legislative Assembly with photos
• Cabinet ministers' executive departments
• Party and Government Posts (ministers and critics)
• Opposition contacts
• Agencies of Parliament
• Media contacts
• Remuneration
• Committees members and clerks
• Sitting calendars for 2020
• Seat breakdown by province
• Next election forecast

Order Now
www.hilltimes.com/the-hill-times-store-package
circulation@hilltimes.com • 613-688-8821